



Disaster Drill

On Sunday, September 14 a disaster drill was held at the Albany International Airport. The Airport Authority, United Airlines, local ambulance and fire companies, six hospitals (including the Stratton VA Medical Center), the New York Guard, the Army reserves and over 70 volunteers from the New York State Health Department participated in the drill.

Rosemary Duncan, Public Affairs and **Dr. Paul Kim**, National Disaster Medical System assisted in the three year planning process for this 'disaster.' **Dr. Walter Rivera** and **Laura Bareski**, RN (both of whom assisted with the World Trade Center disaster aftermath) observed during the drill.

Fifty mannequins with a variety of 'injuries' were flown in from Wisconsin for the exercise. All of the hospitals in the Albany area had the opportunity to exercise their disaster plans in this community wide drill.

Awards & Recognition

🏆 Network 2 has received a one-year provisional accreditation from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA), effective August 22, 2002.

🏆 The Bath Domiciliary recently learned that they were the first domiciliary in the country to be accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) under the behavioral health standards for residential rehabilitation.

CARES Updates

CARES updates can be found in the newsletter *CARES Communiqué*. This newsletter and other important information about CARES is posted on the web at:

vaww.visn2.med.va.gov/cares

Bath Heroes

During Labor Day weekend, while returning from routine security checks on a public road just outside the Bath VA grounds, Officers **Frank Judd** and **Harry Adler** came upon the scene of a motor vehicle accident.

The driver of the vehicle was bleeding from a serious hand injury that severed his index finger. Officer Judd immediately took control of the scene, alerting local authorities and directing traffic to prevent any further accidents. Officer Adler rendered first aid to the victim by stabilizing him and controlling the bleeding until local police and ambulance crews arrived.

Appointments

🔊 **Renee Grzymala** has been named Human Resources Management Assistant, VA Western New York Healthcare System (VAWNYHS) at Buffalo. She was formerly the secretary for pathology and laboratory medicine.

🔊 **Dr. Lawrence H. Flesh** has been named Interim Network Director.

🔊 **Carl Haneline** has been appointed Public Affairs Officer for the Bath VA Medical Center (VAMC). He was previously the Veterans Service Center Manager in Bath.

🔊 **Dr. Michael Krastins** joins the Blue Team at the Stratton VAMC.

🔊 **Shirleen Stocker** is the new Rehab Nurse Manager at Syracuse VAMC.

🔊 **Isabel Warren** has been named the new manager of the Wellsville Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC). She comes from the contract CBOC in Olean.

🔊 **Linda Weiss** has been named Network 2 Operations Officer.

Published


Dr. Barbara Bates, Stratton VA Medical Center (VAMC) is the co-author of an article published in the latest issue of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*. The article is entitled "Outcomes from Stroke Rehabilitation in Veterans Affairs Rehabilitation Units: Detecting and Correcting for Selection Bias."


Commentary in the medical journal *In Our Hands: How Hospital Leaders Can Build a Thriving Workplace*, highlights the acute care operations at the Stratton VAMC. The organization of inpatient care developed by **Barbara Brady, RN**, Acute Care Operations Manager and the inpatient nursing staff in Albany is deemed a model method of dealing with the harried pace and fragmentation of current hospital workloads.


Dr. Alan Lockwood, PET Neurologist at VA Western New York Healthcare System (VAWNYHS) had an article published in the August 19 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Dr. Lockwood's tinnitus studies have shown that tinnitus (ringing in the ears) is a phantom sound with origins in the brain, not the ears.

VAWNYHS staff authored a lead article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. **Dr. Sanjay Sethi, Nancy Evans, RN, Dr. Brydon Grant, and Dr. Timothy Murphy**, members of pulmonary/critical care and infectious diseases wrote the article about specific organisms responsible for COPD exacerbations.


Awards and Recognition


 The Oswego Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) was featured in the July issue of *In Good Health* (a central New York health care newspaper). **Sharon French**, Contract CBOC Lead was interviewed for the article. The partnership between the Syracuse VA Medical Center (VAMC) and the Oswego Hospital staff has created a successful team to deliver quality health care to Oswego veterans.


 **Dr. Toni Ferrario**, Staff Surgeon at the VA Western New York Healthcare System (VAWNYHS) at Buffalo has received the 2002 Humanism in Medicine Award from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey.

 **Dr. Robert Kukol**, Speech Pathologist, Canandaigua VAMC has received his fifth award for continuing education from the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

 **Theodore Podkul**, VAWNYHS at Buffalo participated as a national subject matter expert in the 2002 revision of the Certified Behavioral Health Care Executive (CBHE) subspecialty examination.

 **Rob Shoemaker**, Syracuse VAMC Graphic Designer was the winner of the *Post-Standard STARS* Summertime Photo Contest. His prize-winning photograph, featuring his 3-year old daughter, Morgan, graced the August 11 cover of the *STARS* magazine/*Post-Standard* Sunday supplement.

 **Thomas Wisnieski**, Canandaigua VAMC, Diagnostics and Therapeutic Local Care Line Manager was awarded "Diplomate" status by the American College of Healthcare Executives.

 **Bill Woods**, Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, at the VA Community Care Center in Syracuse has been selected as a presenter at the 2002 New York Association for Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) Conference.